

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY:ARA/ECP:CWREYNOLDS
APPROVED BY:ARA/ECP:WEKNEPER
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O 071330Z MAY 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN NIACI IMMEDIATE

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FOR ECLA DELEGATION

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT TO SECSTATE WASHDC INFO LONDON FM
KINGSTON DTG O R 051948Z MAY 75

QUOTE
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, XX
SUBJECT: COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT NEW ECONOMIC
ORDER

REF: KINGSTON 1695

DEPT PASS AS APPROPRIATE

1. COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT CONCLUDED FIRST
WEEK'S SESSION WITH AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE
OF EXPERTS TO STUDY THE TERMS OF A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER,
PARTICULARLY IN TRADE AND FINANCE, AND TO SUBMIT ITS
RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COMMONWEALTH. THE CONSENSUS
WAS ANNOUNCED BY PM MANLEY, AND ALISTAIR MCINTYRE
(CARICOM SECRETARY GENERAL) WAS APPOINTED CHAIRMAN
OF A WORKING GROUP TO RECOMMEND THE FRAME OF REFERENCE
AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE WHEN FORMAL SESSIONS
RESUME MAY 5.

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2. PM TRUDEAU (CANDA) OFFERED TO HOST MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS IN OTTAWA SO THAT AN INTERIM REPORT COULD BE READY FOR THE AUGUST MEETING OF THE COMMONWEALTH FINANCE MINISTERS IN GUYANA. BASED ON THIS REPORT THE FINANCE MINISTERS WILL MAKE THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEIR DELEGATIONS TO THE UN SESSION LATER THIS YEAR.

3. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE MAIN SPEAKERS ON THE SECOND AND LAST DAY OF THE ECONOMIC DISPUTE WERE PRESIDENT NYERERE (TANZANIA), PM MINTOFF (MALTA) AND PM GAIRY (GRENADA). NYERERE SUPPORTED THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN (BURNHAM PROPOSAL AND STATED THAT MORE ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. MINTOFF DISCUSSED HIS DOMESTIC PROBLEMS, SAID MALTA'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD NOT BE BASED ON THE SOLE FACT IT WAS A NAVAL BASE, AND EMPHASIZED ITS DESIRE TO BE THE SITE FOR THE NEW INTER-NATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN THE ISLAND'S ECONOMY. GAIRY CONFINED HIS FREMARKS TO A STRONG CRITICISM OF THE UK FOR ITS FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE HIS COUNTRY NEEDED SINCE ITS INDEPENDENCE.

4. THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS AS PROPOSED BY BURNHAM IS WIDELY PUBLICIZED HERE AS A "VICTORY FOR THE COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN". THE JAMAICA DAILY NEWS ALSO CARRIED A STORY THAT THE NIGERIAN DELEGATION SAID THAT REPORTS THEY HAD REJECTED THE BURNHAM PROPOSAL WERE ERRONEOUS. A MEMBER OF THE DELEGATION SUPPOSEDLY COMMENTED "WE WANT COOPERATION, NOT CONFRONTATION. WE ARE GLAD THIS MISUNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN CLEARED UP. THE POSITIONS OF MR. WILSON AND MR. BURNHAM HAVE NECESSARILY TO BE DIFFERENT. BUT THE ATMOSPHERE AT THE END OF THE SESSION WAS THAT WE HAVE ALL MADE A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD." ADOPTION OF THE BUNHAM PROPOSAL IS ALSO VIEWED AS A CONSENSUS TOWARD FASTER PROGRESS FOR SOLVING THE DISPARITY BETWEEN THE LDCS AND DCS. OUTGOING SECRETARY GENERAL ARNOLD SMITH SAID THE COMMITTEE'S FUNCTIONS WOULD BE TO EXAMINE A "BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE TERMS OF TRADE TO SPEED UP THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS, TO INCREASE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ABILITY OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THEREBY RAISE THEIR STANDARDS OF LIVING."

5. COMMENT: SINCE CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN KINGSTON AND PM MANLEY IS CHAIRMAN, LOCAL PRESS CAN BE EXPECTED TO HIGHLIGHT CARIBBEAN INPUTS AND PORTRAY THEM AS VICTORIES. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE TOLD ECONOFF DECISION TO APPOINT COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS "IS NOBODY'S

VICTORY AND NOT A REAL BLOW TO WILSON SINCE WILSON'S PROPOSALS WERE PRETTY STANDARD STUFF". HE DID SAY THERE HAD BEEN SOME VERY STRENUOUS DRAFTING DURING THE WEEKEND OVER THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE. THERE WAS ALSO GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE A CANADIAN. ONE OF THE NAMES MENTIONED IN THIS REGARD WAS JAKE WARREN, NEW CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO U.S. SOURCE ALSO COMMENTED THAT DECISION TO APPOINT COMMITTEE PROBABLY MOST SENSIBLE THING CONFERENCE COULD HAVE AGREED ON. WITH REFERENCE TO BURNHAM'S RHETORIC, HE SAID MOST OF PACIFIC AND SOME OF AFRICAN COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS ARE QUITE CONSERVATIVE. CANADIAN DELEGATES HAD ALSO TOLD HIM THAT THE CONFERENCE SEEMS TO HAVE REVERTED TO ENDLESS SPEECH-MAKING, WHICH IS SOMETHING MOST MEMBERS HAD THOUGHT WAS ELIMINATED AT OTTAWA. IN ECONOFF VIEW, FACT THAT SO-CALLED REVOLUTIONARY THIRD WORLD LEADER LIKE BURNHAM SHOULD PROPOSE STUDY GROUP, WHICH IS STANDARD DC COPOUT IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE SAID HE THOUGH BURNHAM SPEECH MIGHT HAVE BEEN DRAFTED BY A CANADIAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AGREEMENTS, COMMONWEALTH MEETINGS, COMMITTEES, CONSULTANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE106123
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/ECP:CWREYNOLDS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750160-0182
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750573/aaaacolk.tel
Line Count: 139
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 KINGSTON 1695
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT NEW ECONOMIC ORDER
TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, XX
To: PORT OF SPAIN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006